(a) whether it is fact that the number of cardiac patients is on the increase resulting in the rapid increase in medical expenditure;

(b) the number of cardiac patients in the country at present alongwith the number of persons dying of cardiac disease every year; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to save people from cardiac disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The exact number of persons suffering or dying due to cardiac diseases in India is not known. However, the data available from various published studies indicate the rising trend in cardiac ailments in India. The treatment of cardiac patients involves the high tech investigations and other interventions which are expensive. Therefore, the expenditure by the patients/by the institution/health care delivery system is increasing.

(c) The pilot phase of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke has already been launched in 10 States (one district each State) early this year with focus on increasing public awareness thereby preventing the common risk factors associated with these diseases. The Ministry carried out health awareness activities through various agencies including Central Health Education Bureau which, *inter alia,* includes life style modifications and also for prevention and control of Non Communicable Diseases.

Shortage of medical professionals

850. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of medical professionals and healthcare workers in the country;

(b) names of the States where maximum number of shortages are being experienced;

(c) the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether Government has any immediate action plan to meet the shortages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors and nurses in the country. As per information furnished by Medical Council of India at present there are 7,13, 428 allopathic registered doctors in the country. Apart from this, there are 290 medical colleges with 33,482 annual intake capacity of MBBS students and students passing out from these medical colleges every year are also adding to the strength of doctors in the country. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoepathy in the country. However, there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors in the rural and urban areas of the country. As regard nurses, the total number of registered nurses with various State Nursing Councils is 9.28 lakhs. Currently, there are 1597 Graduate Nursing Midwifery (GNM) Schools functioning in the country with an intake capacity of 80000 students (approximately) per year. In order to expand the facilities of Medical Education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya

Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in under served-States and also to upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College / Institutions in ten States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new college in the Government as well as private sector and also increase in intake capacity of medical students. The Government is also exploring the possibilities to allow utilization of district hospital as teaching hospital by the promoter of private medical colleges under public private partnership model in the underserved areas in the country and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) focused States.

Under NRHM, all PHCs are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioners and skilled nurses at PHC level. The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and in-service training of ANMs / Nurses is being done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre. Requirement of funds for establishment/strengthening of nursing and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) schools, as incorporated in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) of some States under NRHM (2006-07) has been approved. Strategic frame work has been prepared to meet shortage of nurses in future in the following manner:-

i) Establishing Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) schools in those districts (230) which are not having both these training programmes.

ii) Establishing post graduation Nursing [M. Sc. (Nursing)] Institutions.

iii) Developing Cadre of nurse midwifery practitioners and establishing training institutions.

Blindness control programme in Maharashtra

851. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is the forerunner in the National Blindness Control Programme;

(b) if so, how many Ophthalmic Regional Institutes are in existence there at present and how many more have been/are being sanctioned to Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is also a fact that number of cases of blindness is more in rural and tribal areas than the urban areas; and

(d) what strategies are being planned by Government to combat this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Maharashtra is one of the best performing States in respect of National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) keeping in view the performance indicators like Cataract Surgeries, School Eye Screening Programme, Collection of Donated Eyes etc. under the Programme.

(b) At present, there is no Regional Institute of Ophthalmology in existence in Maharashtra under NPCB. It has been proposed to provide assistance for upgradation of one of the Medical Colleges as Regional Institute of Ophthalmology in Maharashtra during the Eleventh Five Year Plan under NPCB.